

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

December 3, 2008 MINUTES
Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Marianne Cook, Joe De Vito (Chair), Richard Dyer, Donna Gordon, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Police Officer Jeffrey Mace, Ellen Manning, Terance Sack, Robert Staulo, John Staulo, Kirsten Tuohy
Students: Allison Clott, Jennie Krems, Tamra Matama, Adam Sangiolo, Annie Staulo

Regrets: Anthony Bibbo, Chris Fortunato, Joanne Kazarian, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephen Ross,
Students: Sam Arsenault, Maya Guttman, Greg Kelley, Zoe Pepper-Cunningham, Kyle Russo, Ariana Tabatabaie

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: none

The meeting was opened at 7:05pm and chaired by Joe De Vito.

Introductions were made.

A motion to accept the minutes of November 5, 2008 passed.

Treasurer's report: We're still waiting for the city custodian bill for use of City Hall for the 10/19/08 Autumn Invasion event. The revolving account balance is still \$681.12 and Bev is selling left-over water, soda and chips from the event, and will make a deposit in late December.

Business Items

In response to the articles in the Newton TAB regarding the incidents of drunken driving accidents involving youth, the Youth Commission did write a letter-to-the-editor in the 11/19/08 edition. Bob and Ellen each emailed Bev with a draft and Bev combined the wording. The letter was signed by Joe as chairman of the Commission.

Matt Green will host a fundraising meeting on 12/17/08 at 7pm at his office with all students invited. He emailed this information out.

Terry attended the Newton PTO Council's presentation "Navigating the Rocky Road of Adolescence at Newton Wellesley Hospital on 11/20/08. Dr. Michael Jellinek, the Chief of Child Psychiatry at Mass. General Hospital and President of NWH, presented. Terry reported that it was well attended and the message was to the point. There are many issues parents are facing with their teens but the most important one to address is the use of drinking &/or drugs mixed with driving.

Marianne said these presentations are part of the "Safe Schools/Healthy Students" grant that the city has received. It allows the Education Department to produce forums on various topics. In her role with Riverside, she is now contracted by the grant to staff Project Interface's help line for parents in need of mental health services for their children.

Tony emailed a proposal for a March Madness Basketball Tournament. Joe presented the idea and there was enthusiastic discussion including: the sizes of teams; the location (NSHS has 4 courts in 1

gym); use of volunteer referees; awarding the teams with the most wins; use of artsy performances for half time; selling hot dogs and beverages to raise funds, and more. It was mentioned to charge a small fee to participate in order to raise funds. Marianne, Kirsten, Donna, Terry, John and some students agreed to be on the sub-committee and will meet after this meeting.

Peter brought up "New Media Literacies" – an effort to teach educators how to teach students to appropriately use the internet. His niece is at MIT working on this project. They're establishing protocols and resources. Commission members were interested and asked Peter to invite her to the Jan. 7 meeting.

Bev noted that the annual Human Rights Awards event is tomorrow night, 12/4/08 and Donna Gordon's daughter is one of 4 Newton high school students receiving the award.

Joe said there was no Youth Foundation news. We're starting with the fundraising committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, JANUARY 7 at 7:00pm in the City Hall cafeteria.